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Clearer mountain forecasts from the Met Office

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New and improved mountain weather forecasts will provide hill walkers with information to help keep them safer, whilst making the most of some of the most spectacular countryside in the UK.

For the first time Met Office forecasts will be provided for the Peak District National Park and improvements have been made to the current forecasts for the Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia, Lake District and West and East Highlands.

Following extensive consultation with users of the existing forecasts, improvements have been made to make the forecasts clearer, more appealing and more useful to mountain climbers and hill walkers.

The forecasts will now include a colour-coded hazards forecast to highlight key risks on the mountains, details on the risk of precipitation, and the latest synoptic chart. The forecasts will be updated twice a day to give users the latest information on the expected conditions in the mountains.

Geoff Nickolds, lead member for recreation at the Peak District National Park Authority, said: "We're very keen for walkers and climbers to enjoy the wildest and most beautiful parts of our National Park, but also that they should do so as safely as possible. These newly available and improved weather forecasts are a major step forward in ensuring that they can."

The mountain weather forecasts are just one part of a range of forecasts made available as part of the Public Weather Service (PWS). Through the PWS the Met Office is working to ensure the public and businesses can make the most of the weather through the provision of forecasts and warnings supported by a network of Public Weather Service Advisers.

Pat Boyle, Public Weather Service Manager at the Met Office, said: "Mountains can be inhospitable and dangerous places if you are not prepared. The weather can vary a great deal and change very quickly, posing a significant risk to walkers' safety. Whether it's a well-planned expedition or a spur-of-the-moment decision to go to the hills, it is important to check the forecast".

Notes to editors:

- The use of colour-coded hazards forecasts follows the successful introduction of the Met Office colour-coded severe weather warnings for heavy rain, gales, heavy snow, blizzards, dense fog and icy roads, supporting the emergency services and resilience community.

Mountain weather forecasts